Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A centralizer system for positioning in a marine riser system, said marine riser system connecting between one or more wellbores and a floating platform, comprising:

a receptacle for receiving said centralizer system, said receptacle having a receptacle inner diameter;

a metallic pipe comprising a pipe outer diameter less than said receptacle inner diameter so as to be insertable into said receptacle and relatively moveable within said receptacle;

a metallic upset portion formed on said metallic pipe having an upset outer diameter greater than said pipe outer diameter, said pipe and said upset portion being a monolithic structure;

a metallic centralizer heat shrink mounted on and in rigid gripping engagement with said upset portion on said metallic pipe whereby said centralizer and said upset are prevented from any relative movement, said centralizer having an outer diameter less than said receptacle inner diameter for insertion into said receptacle and serving to centralize said metallic pipe and centralizer in said receptacle said upset portion and said centralizer being wholly received in said receptacle, said pipe, said upset portion, and said centralizer being freely, axially moveable relative to and within said receptacle.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The centralizer system of claim 1, further comprising an upset transition zone on at least one side of said upset portion, said upset transition zone having an outer diameter equal to said upset portion on one end of said upset transition zone such that said outer diameter of said upset transition zone decreases with distance axially away from said upset portion.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The centralizer system of claim 2, wherein said centralizer is also in gripping engagement with at least a portion of said upset transition zone.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The centralizer system of claim 1, wherein said centralizer is monolithic and further comprises water flow ports to permit water flow therethrough as said centralizer moves axially with respect to said receptacle.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The centralizer system of claim 1, wherein said centralizer is rigid, said centralizer defining at least one groove shaped to limit substantially radially directed forces created due to impact or high force contact of said receptacle by said centralizer.

6. **(Original)** The centralizer system of claim 5, wherein said at least one groove is selectively positioned within said centralizer to thereby selectively reduce stress at a selected portion of said upset portion.

7. **(Original)** The centralizer system of claim 6, wherein said at least one groove is positioned adjacent to a first end of said upset portion to thereby reduce stress at said first end of said upset portion.

8. **(Original)** The centralizer of claim 7, further comprising two grooves positioned adjacent opposite ends of said upset portion to thereby reduce stress at said opposite ends of said upset portion.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The centralizer system of claim 1, further comprising an insulative coating on an outer surface of said centralizer.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The centralizer system of claim 1, wherein said centralizer has an outer surface with a curvature portion for contact with said receptacle.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The centralizer system of claim 1, wherein said centralizer has a substantially cylindrical outer surface portion for contact with said receptacle.

12-44. **(Cancelled)**